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LETTER DATED 28 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On orders from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a letter dated 28 May 1998 addressed to you from Mr. Tarik Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister and Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs. This letter relates to statements which were made on 21 May 1998 by the United States Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas Pickering, and fully reveal the current United States policy, which is hostile to Iraq and contrary to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 28 May 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

On 21 May 1998, the United States Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas Pickering, made, during a joint meeting in which the Foreign Relations Committee and the Committee on Natural Resources of the United States Senate participated, a statement in which he referred to the policy followed by the United States with regard to our country.

This policy and the explicit terms used by Mr. Pickering are aimed at maintaining the embargo imposed on Iraq. The United States, therefore, does not conceal the fact that it is firmly determined to impose hostile policies which, lacking any relation to Security Council resolutions and international law, are attempting to link to the "oil for food" programme objectives that run counter to its temporary nature and humanitarian orientation in order to infringe the sovereignty of Iraq and interfere in its internal affairs.

This openly flaunted policy and the statements to which it has given rise are in flagrant contravention of the purposes and principles of the Charter and constitute a breach of the commitment set forth in Article 25 of the Charter by virtue of which States Members of the United Nations agree to accept and carry out the decisions of the Security Council in accordance with the Charter.

Furthermore, we wish to draw your attention to the following fact: the statement by Mr. Pickering very clearly demonstrates that the United States policy with regard to Iraq is essentially dictated by the national interests of the United States and does not at all take into account the obligations incumbent on that country under the relevant Security Council resolutions.

This policy, which is the work of a permanent member of the Security Council, must be condemned by all the States Members of the United Nations, particularly the members of the Security Council. It imposes an unfair evaluation of the manner in which Iraq carries out its obligations under the Security Council resolutions and is attempting at all cost to prevent the adoption by the Council of a resolution calling for the lifting of the embargo against Iraq, in accordance with paragraph 22 of resolution 687 (1991), thus jeopardizing the credibility of the Security Council.

In the hope that you will give this problem the interest that is due and will be able to draw attention to its seriousness in accordance with your responsibilities under the Charter, we should like to request you to arrange to have the text of this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Tarik AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister and
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs